בס"ד

 **Middah Master Lesson 4**

**בּוּשָׁה – Busha (Conscience, moral sensitivity, shame)**
Opposite: עַזּוּת – Azus (fierce, brazen, unfeeling).

## Case 1: The Homework Copy

Before class, Yossi realized he had forgotten to do his homework. He saw Moshe’s completed paper on the desk and thought about quickly copying it. \*Yossi thought: If I copy, Rebbi won’t know, and I won’t get in trouble. But deep inside, I’ll know it wasn’t really my work.\*

He looked around. \*Yossi thought: Busha means feeling that inner sense of shame before doing the wrong thing. If I copy, I’ll avoid embarrassment now, but I’ll feel even worse later.\* He had to decide if he would own up to his mistake or take the shortcut.

Solve it: What should Yossi do?

* A) Copy Moshe’s paper so he won’t get caught without homework. (❌ Not good – This avoids temporary embarrassment but ignores conscience.)
* B) Admit to Rebbi that he forgot his homework and accept the consequence. (✅ Best – This shows Busha, moral sensitivity to honesty.)
* C) Hide the fact he didn’t do the homework and hope Rebbi won’t notice. (❌ Not good – This avoids shame now but damages trust later.)

## Case 2: The Broken Pencil Box

At recess, the boys were passing around Yaakov’s pencil box, pretending it was a toy car. Suddenly it slipped, cracked, and the lid broke. Everyone went quiet as Yaakov walked back to the group.

*If I admit I was part of this, I’ll be embarrassed,* Shimon thought. *But if I stay quiet, Yaakov will think someone else did it.*

*Busha means my conscience reminds me of the right thing,* he thought. *Even if I feel shame now, honesty is more important than hiding.*

Solve it: What should Shimon do?

* A) Admit to Yaakov that he was part of breaking the box and say he’s sorry. (✅ Best – This shows Busha, the courage to face shame and do the right thing.)
* B) Stay quiet and hope Yaakov blames someone else. (❌ Not good – This ignores conscience and avoids responsibility.)
* C) Pretend he wasn’t there when it broke. (❌ Not good – This is dishonest and avoids Busha.)

## Teacher’s Note

Busha means listening to the inner voice that makes us pause before doing wrong, and admitting when we’ve slipped. Yossi showed Busha by choosing honesty instead of copying, and Shimon showed Busha by admitting he was wrong even though it was embarrassing. Without Busha, a person can become brazen and lose the sensitivity that guards the heart.

## Quick Facilitation Tips

* Busha Scale: Present small examples (forgetting homework, taking something without asking). Have boys line up on a 'shame scale' of how much conscience would bother them.
* Role-Play: One boy pretends to be tempted to copy. Others suggest what his conscience might say. Connect to Busha.
* Exit Ticket: Write one time your conscience reminded you to do the right thing.